

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BUENOS 02229 030431Z

21

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

COME-00 EB-07 LAB-04 SIL-01 DHA-02 /071 W

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R 022027Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5120

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BUENOS AIRES 2229

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EINV, EGEN, AR

SUBJECT: COMMENTARY ON CURRENT SITUATION BY U.S. BUSINESS COMMUNITY

1. A WEEK AFTER THE COUP, EMBOFFS, INCLUDING DCM CHAPLIN, LUNCHEON WITH BOARD OF U.S. CHAMBER OF COMMERCE. WE COLLECTED FOLLOWING IMPRESSIONS.

2. BOARD MEMBERS WERE NOTICEABLY ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT CHANGES THEY FORESAW IN ECONOMIC POLICY AND BUSINESS CLIMATE, THOUGH NO ONE YET HAD ANY FIRM DETAILS OF MARTINEZ DE HOZ'S ECONOMIC PLAN. A NUMBER OF THEM COMMENTED ON THE PRONOUNCED DROP IN ABSENTEEISM AND SURGE IN PRODUCTIVITY WHICH HAS TAKEN PLACE IN PAST WEEK THROUGHOUT THE ECONOMY. EVEN LABOR UNION DELEGATES ("DELEGADOS") ARE WORKING, APPARENTLY. (THIS PHENOMENON HAS ALSO BEEN WIDELY COMMENTED ON IN PRESS.) MANY FIRMS WHICH HAD BEEN OPERATING WITH 15 TO 25 PERCENT ABSENTEEISM AND AT LEVELS OF PRODUCTIVITY EQUIVALENT TO HALF THE NORMAL, NOW REPORT PRODUCTIVITY HAS RETURNED TO PRE-PERONIST LEVELS, BEGINNING THE DAY OF THE COUP.

3. BOARD MEMBERS ALSO REPORTED MORE RECENT VISITS TO INDUSTRIAL PLANTS BY MILITARY OFFICERS ASSIGNED TO MILITARY ZONE IN WHICH PLANTS INCLUDED. IN SOME CASES MILITARY ALLEGEDLY TRANSMITTED DIRECTLY TO WORK FORCE THEIR DESIRE THAT WORK

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PROCEED ON A NO-NONSENSE BASIS AND WITHOUT DISRUPTION.

PLANT EXECUTIVES WERE ASKED TO KEEP IN TOUCH WITH MILITARY ZONE COMMANDERS AND REPORT INSTANCES OF DISRUPTION. IN SOME INSTANCES MANAGERS HAVE BEEN ASKED FOR LISTS OF NAMES OF TROUBLEMAKING ELEMENTS IN PLANTS. IN OTHERS, MILITARY ALREADY SEEMED TO HAVE LIST AND ENTERED PLANTS TO ARREST THEM.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LABOR RELATIONS, CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE, PUBLIC ATTITUDES, ECONOMIC PROGRAMS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 APR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976BUENOS02229
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760126-0274
From: BUENOS AIRES
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t197604105/aaaadmeo.tel
Line Count: 67
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14 JUL 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <14 JUL 2004 by ElyME>; APPROVED <22 OCT 2004 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: COMMENTARY ON CURRENT SITUATION BY U.S. BUSINESS COMMUNITY
TAGS: EINV, EGEN, AR, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006